



**Realigning the domestic violence  
planet; bringing speciesism into focus  
– Starting a conversation on a new  
intersectionality and victimhood’,**

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# Background



# Current Interpretations

- For many people who leave abusive relationships, the option of leaving is not always well understood or supported.

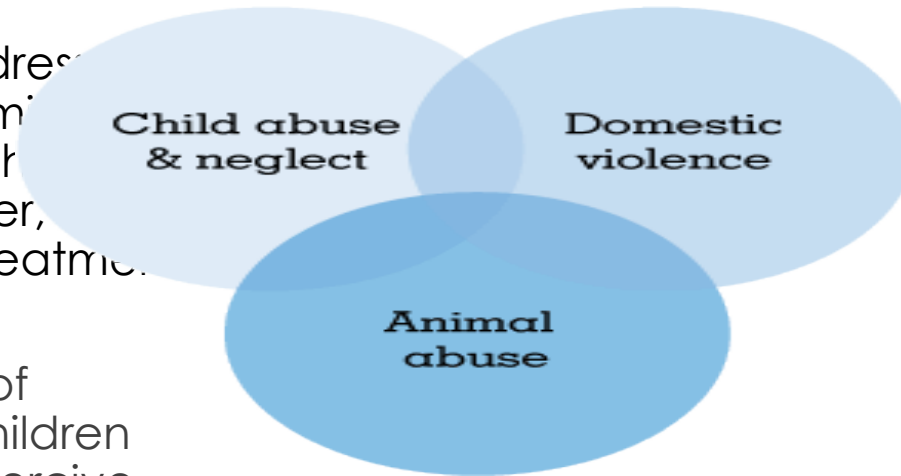


- A red flag is often used to describe a situation where a person is in a relationship with someone who is abusive. It is a warning sign that the relationship is dangerous and that the person should leave.

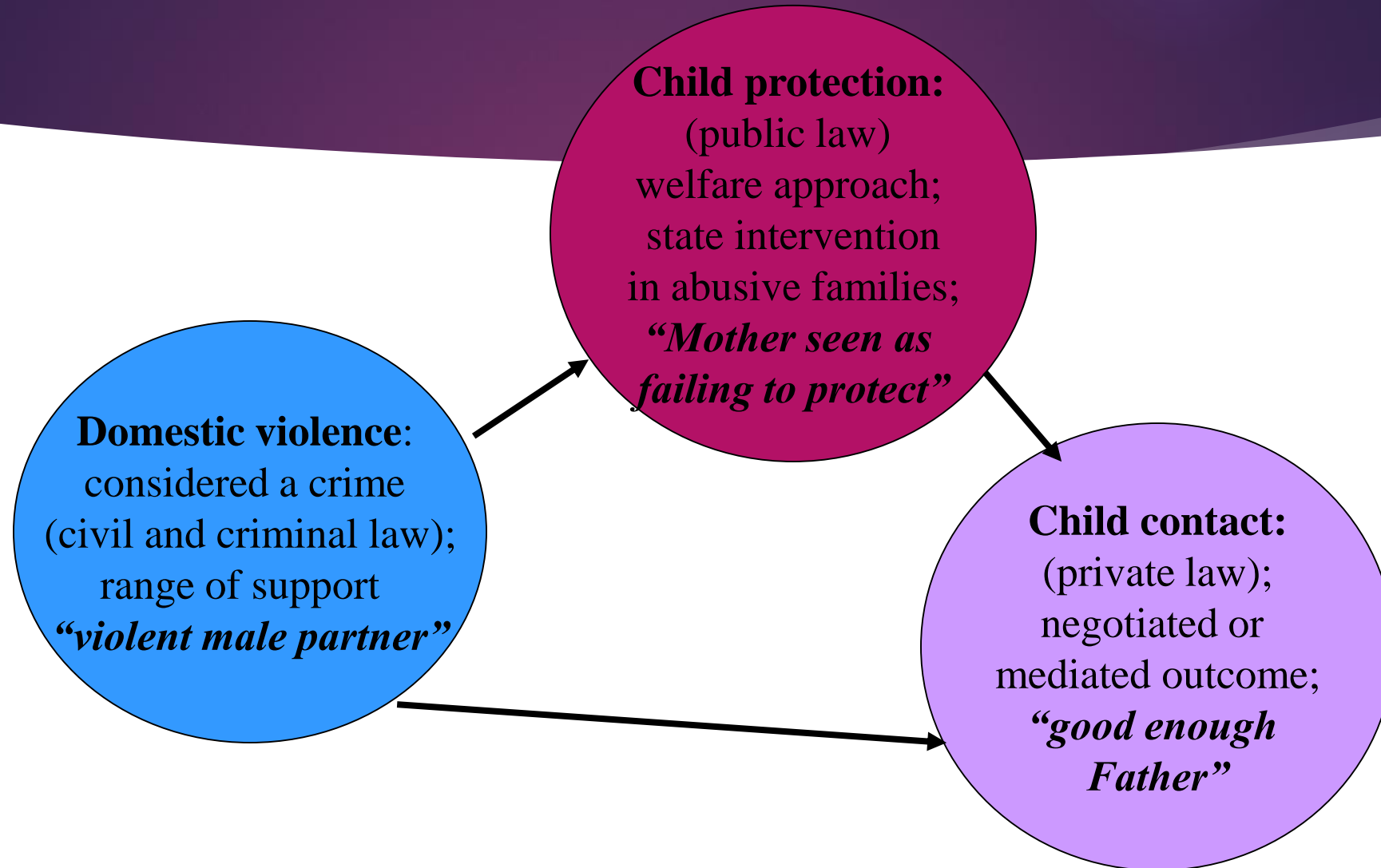
- McIvor (2010) found that the use of power, & control tool used against the child's mother

to address the needs of the family between children and the shelter, required treatment.

impacts of the abuse by children as a coercive, controlling, and manipulative tool used against the child's mother



# 3 Planet Model 2011





- Some researchers have long championed Children's rights in the field
- Government's VAWG strategy now recognises young people as victims as a distinct issue
- Government's Domestic Abuse Bill (2019) commits to better addressing young people's needs alongside improvements for children (NB falls short recognising '*independent agency*' though calls continue to progress this research, policy & practice agenda
- These steps can & should be embedded within a strategy to identify companion animals to victims as those given *independent agency*.
- Impact?



Power & Control Wheel (Pence & Paymer, 1993).  
The original wheel identified a set of behaviours adopted by abusive partners in order to maintain control & power

Behaviours include:

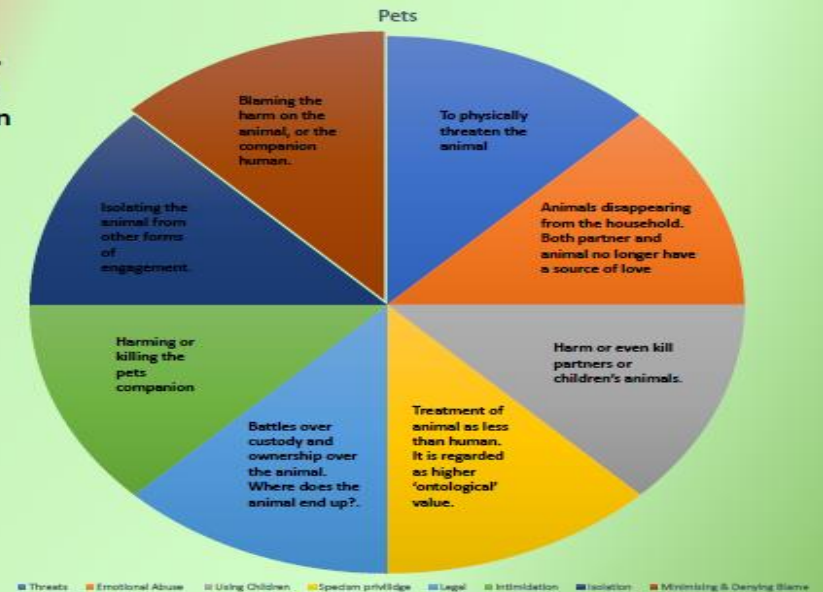
- 1) Coercion & Threats
- 2) Intimidation
- 3) Emotional Abuse
- 4) Isolation
- 5) Using children
- 6) Economic Abuse
- 7) Male Privilege
- 8) Minimising, denying harm, blaming

Our interpretation builds on this

## Children and Pets: The Hidden Victims of Domestic Violence & Abuse (DVA): Where Action & Activism Merge!

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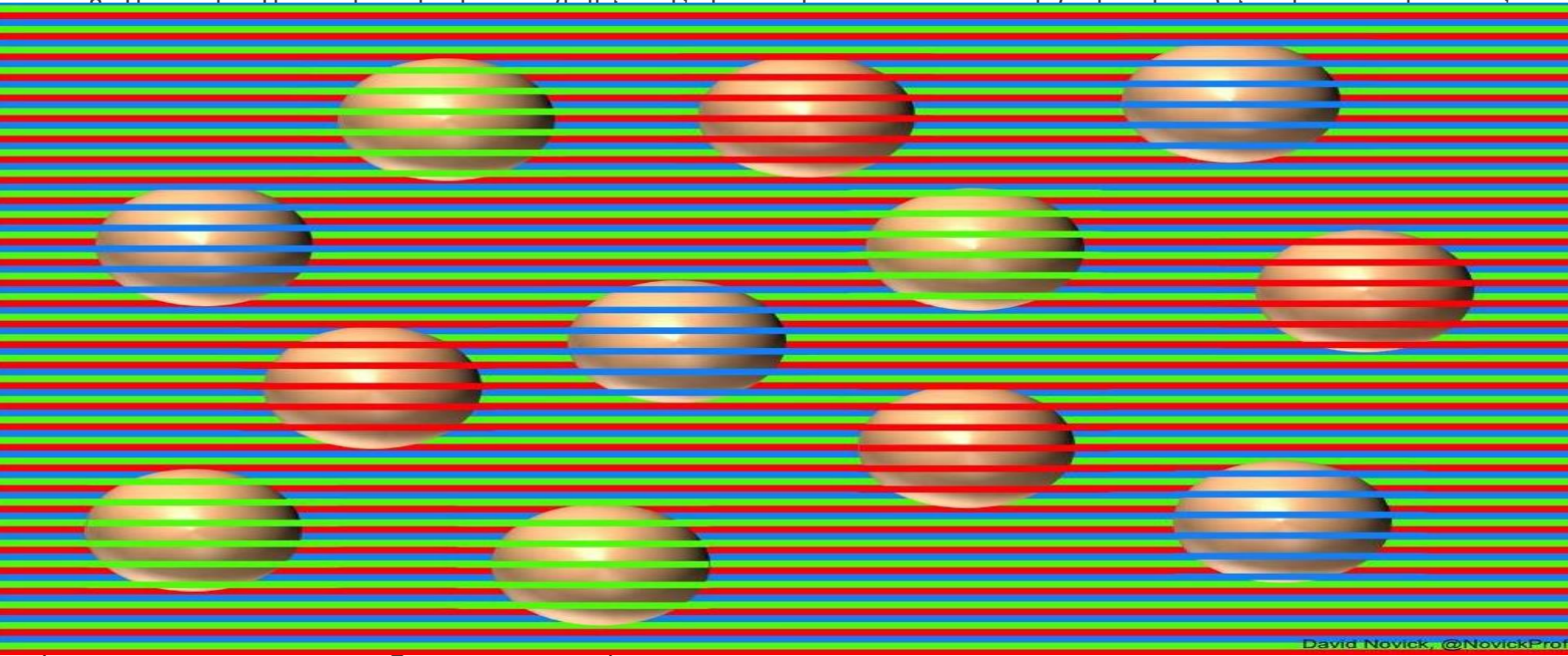


### Anthropocentrism vs Specisism and towards an animal and human symmetry approach

- One way to shift the focus to include animals in the same way as children is to consider a broader ontological debate on anthropocentrism & speciesism
- An *anthropocentric perspective* of companion animals has provided some developments towards their protection e.g. pet fostering to victims seeking to escape/flee
- This is aligned with a hierarchal concept of specism placing humans at the top of a policy agenda comparative to non-human species A *speciesist perspective* emphasises the rights of animals to *independent agency* in the same way as humans. Translates into policy & criminal law regarding the treatment of animals as victims of animal cruelty. These services already exist e.g. animal organisations taking responsibility for prosecutions of animal cruelty.
- We contend that the treatment of companion animals/pets should – not unlike the developments regarding children as victims of DVA – be incorporated into the same approach to developing & tackling strategies to address DVA.

# Explaining Our Power & Control Wheel & Thinking Differently

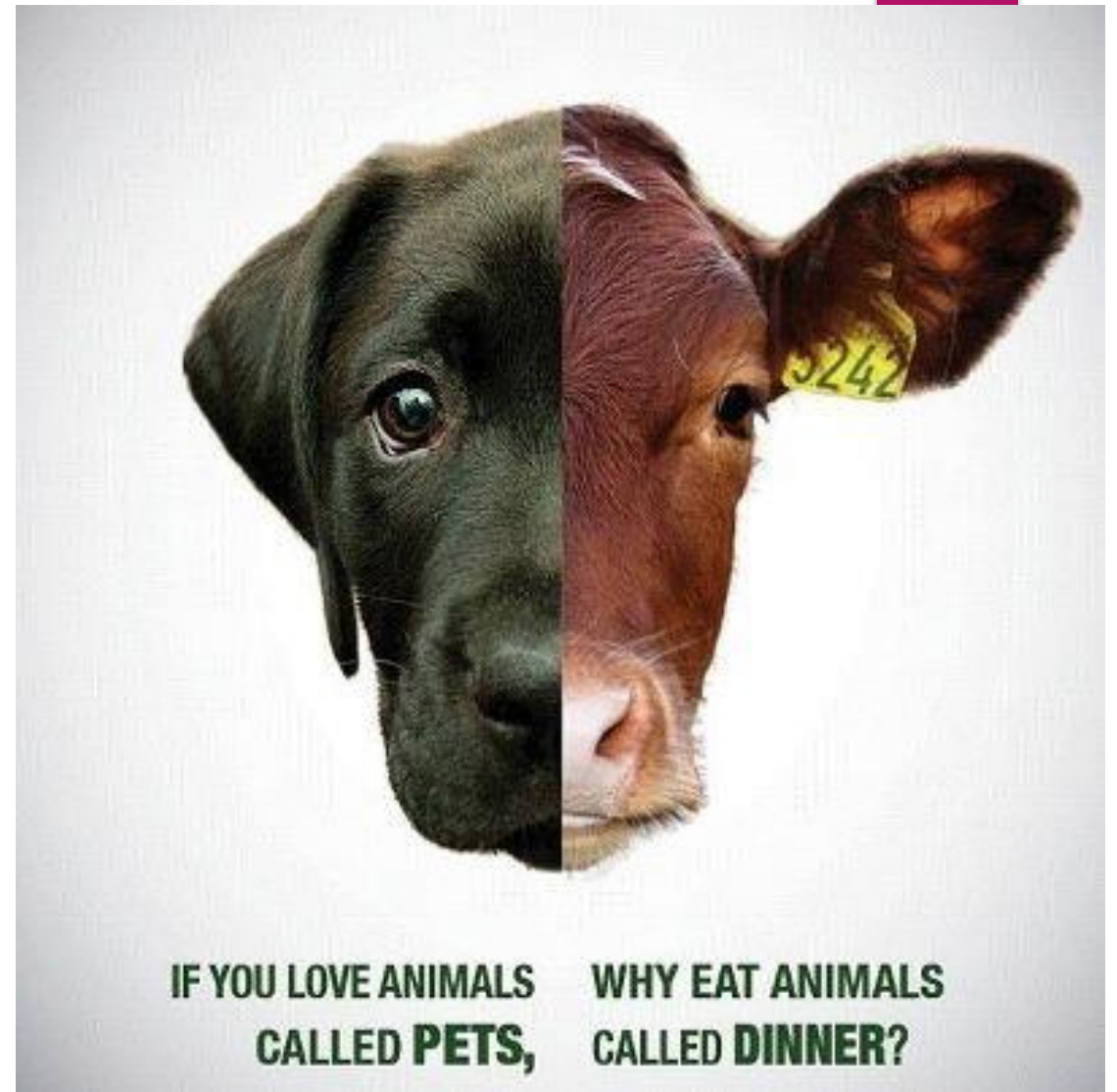
- ▶ Coercion
- ▶ Emotional
- ▶ Intimidation
- ▶ Minimization
- ▶ Legal
- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Economic
- ▶ Using



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We argue then, that reframing our anthropocentric hierarchy largely embedded within 'western' society is an important step forward to potential reframe & thus develop intervention & practice strategies to tackle companion animals and DVA





ALL ANIMALS ARE EQUAL  
BUT SOME ANIMALS ARE  
MORE EQUAL THAN OTHERS